

# April Showers Edition



## Renaissance Man

*A profile of MBA's own  
Mr. David Norton*

8

## Chillax Bros

*Big Red Lacrosse makes  
it look easy*



20

# THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

4001 Harding Road, Nashville, TN

April 7, 2017

Vol. LXXIII, No. 4



**ORDER IN THE COURT:** The Mock Trial team at the courthouse downtown upon winning the City Championship. Mr. Wade Cowan MBA '74 was inducted into Totomoi this spring in appreciation for his hard work coaching the MBA Mock Trial team for more than twenty years, a task he has undertaken for no pay.

## Big Red Mock Trial Mops Up Competition, Secures State Title

*By Matt Kaplan  
Staff Lawmaker*

On a lonely weekend in February, while many feared the passing of Presidents' Day Weekend with hopeful anticipation for an upcoming Spring Break, the MBA Mock Trial teams were in the midst of their long-awaited district competition. Each year, MBA sends two teams to the

city competition. The MBA B Team entered competition with a team consisting of members with very little mock trial experience who were more on board to have fun than necessarily to win the competition. While the B Team did not qualify for state, they gained valuable experience that hopefully can carry over for future success at the city competition.

For the A Team, hours of

preparation—up to five or six days a week—fueled the adrenaline that members of the team felt heading into the first round of city. Practicing every day with the legacy of six consecutive city titles on their minds, the team had reason to feel confident.

This year's dream team for the city competition consisted of senior captains Andrew Kaplan and John Cooper, senior John Fioravanti,

juniors Daniel Cowan and Brawner Smith, and freshmen Matthew Kaplan and Aden Barton.

The team faced stiff competition throughout the weekend. In the first pairing, the team faced off against the Harpeth Hall A Team, which has been the second place team to MBA

**Cont. Page 3**



# It's a Jungle Out There: Seniors Learn About Job Market

By Andrew Kaplan  
News Editor

To prepare this year's seniors for life beyond high school, on March 15, 2017, MBA invited various alumni and distinguished professionals in Nashville to engage seniors in discussions about the possibilities a number of careers offer.

The day began with a panel discussion led by Will Parsons '96 about how to take advantage of college to build a resume and begin to pursue a career after four years of undergraduate education. One overwhelming piece of comfort the seniors received was the assertion that MBA prepares all students to be very successful in college.

The highlight of the day was an address from Bill Hagerty, the keynote speaker. Hagerty, Trump's pick for an ambassadorship to Japan, implored the students to take advantage of every positive opportunity they are presented with. He explained how he pounced on a series of opportunities in his life to advance in his career. Hagerty grew up in Gallatin, Tennessee and is now a world-renowned business man and political power player.

Other Nashville business magnates, such as Will Alexander, spoke about their career paths. Alexander and Hagerty also touched on their venture to bring a Major League soccer team to Nashville. Each expressed confidence in Nashville's ability to earn one of the four expansion team slots.

Hagerty's address was followed

by a number of independent workshops between students and professionals addressing areas such as law, finance, real estate, and medicine. For this purpose, MBA brought in several top members in such a variety of fields from around Nashville.

"Career Day gave me some insight into what certain jobs are actually like," said MBA senior Peter Taylor. "I had always thought that going into law would be like selling your soul, but the lawyers I heard from had a number of uplifting things to say about its practice. On the other hand, finance sounds just like the grind it's cracked up to be."

MBA senior Frist Allen described the day as "a great chance to hear about how everyone takes a different route to their career. The way somebody ends up working is not the same path they initially thought they would go."

"Career Day was worthwhile especially in the fact that it was good to



**ENVOY:** Bill Hagerty, MBA Career Day's keynote speaker, will take the post of US Ambassador to Japan after having worked on the campaigns of both Donald Trump and Mitt Romney.

hear from professionals and their advice on how to carry out our early years in a career successfully," said senior John Fioravanti. "I enjoyed the experience."

"Career Day represents a terrific opportunity for seniors to get a preliminary sense of what they might like to do when they enter the job market," said Jody Johnson, director of MBA's Alumni and Affairs Department. "The MBA alumni community provides a most impressive resource of expertise and opportunities in a wide variety of fields."

Career day followed a three-part lecture series about financial independence. MBA brought financial planners to speak to the seniors about financial literacy, balance sheets, and responsible living. More than any other tangible benefit, the seniors gained an understanding of the importance of beginning to think about independence in general.

**MAGNATES:** Will Alexander and Bill Hagerty (left and center left, respectively), two speakers at Career Day, are currently involved in efforts to secure a Major League Soccer team for Nashville.





# 100 Days In: Trump's Presidency So Far

By Ben Coulthard  
Sports Editor

Coming off the campaign trail after winning the electoral vote to become the 45th President of the United States, Donald Trump finally reached the Oval Office pressed to fill the shoes of Barack Obama. Trump had made plenty of promises to voters across the United States that ended up being the deciding factors in his getting elected. However, in his first 100 days, President Trump has been unable to follow through in many of his promises from his first 100 days plan.

Not even a week into the presidency, Trump and his staff made headlines as the president signed an executive order on "The Wall," the one made infamous throughout the election that Trump pledged to build in order to end illegal immigration coming through Mexico and the southern border between the two countries. Soon afterwards, Trump signed a similar executive order temporarily ending a program between the United States and refugees as well as making sure refugees from seven predominantly-Muslim countries would not be allowed entry into the United States. While the idea was to "keep radical Islamic terrorists" out of the U.S., the travel ban

**OUT OF THE GATE:** *Trump's first 100 days in the office of the United States presidency have seen his approval rating drop sharply and draw much criticism from across the political spectrum.*

made it so citizens with green cards or permanent residency who were out of the country at the time the ban was passed were unable to return to the United States. People who had worked in the U.S. their entire lives but were not permanent citizens of the U.S. were forced to make decisions of grand proportions because of the ban.

Following these orders, travel was restricted to Muslims and refugees and many of those affected were left detained or stranded in the airports they had traveled to. However, Judge James Robart halted the order nationwide, temporarily ending the ban on Muslims in America. A San Francisco federal appeals court also refused Trump's request to reinstate the ban. A similar occurrence came after Trump tried to put a revised travel ban into effect in March, but Judge Derrick Watson issued a rebuke to Trump's ban a few hours before the ban would go into effect. Both ends to Trump's travel bans have resulted in President Trump's first major loss as president, being unable to follow through on one of his major promises. Many Americans have supported Trump's effort to keep radical Muslim terrorism out of the U.S., but more than enough have kept the bills from going into effect.

Another failure for the Trump

administration came in the defeat of their attempt to repeal Obamacare. Despite the Republicans controlling the Senate, House, and Oval Office, those who vowed to "repeal and replace" Obama's appointed healthcare plan failed to put "Trumpcare", known also as the American Healthcare Act, through office after it became apparent the President did have the votes as the vote came near. President Trump pledged to repeal Obamacare throughout his campaign, however, his plan exploded in his face just as he hoped Obamacare would blow up in the face of the Democrats. Since dubbed one of the biggest failures in United States political history, details have been released that the AHA would have certainly hurt most of the middle to lower class of America had the bill passed. Almost 24 million citizens would have lost health coverage by 2026, and the monetary costs would have hurt more. According to CNN, a 64-year-old making \$26,500 would pay \$1,700 for coverage in 2026 under Obamacare, but under the AHA plan, that same person would have to pay \$14,600. In a press conference right after the vote was canceled, President Trump blamed the Democrats for the lack of support to pass the bill rather than his own party. With the control the Republicans had in the House and Senate, they didn't need any Democrat votes to pass the bill. Two days later, Trump finally took to Twitter to attack the Freedom Caucus, the extreme right wing portion of the Republicans, blaming the revival of Obamacare on them. The failure of this bill surprised Trump, who assumed he had enough support to pass his version of healthcare, but the president has since moved on to work on other policies such as taxes and climate control.

These two failures have been the major talking points amongst Americans as Trump since Trump has assumed the role of president, yet other issues have arisen as well. Trump has faced dissent for his cabinet appointees. Betsy DeVos was the biggest story in the early stages of Trump's nominations for his cabinet. The nomination of DeVos, Trump's choice for education

secretary, raised eyebrows after it was released she had no education degree, no teaching experience, and never attended public school nor sent her children to one. Many educators were not pleased with her nomination, with Lily Eskelsen Garcia, president of the National Education Association, saying the nomination showed "just how out of touch" Trump's choice is with the education system. DeVos was confirmed as Education Secretary on February 7th after it came down to Vice President Mike Pence voting yes for DeVos, breaking the vote after a 50-50 tie.

U.S. citizens raised their eyebrows once again towards the Trump administration after National Security Advisor Michael T. Flynn resigned only 25 days into Trump's term. It was made aware that the Department of Justice informed the White House that Flynn could be blackmailed. It had also been disclosed that Flynn had misled Vice President Pence and other White House officials about his contact with Russia's ambassador to the United States. The issue came both with Flynn's contact with Russia involving sanctions that were to be possibly placed on the European nation and also whether or not Flynn was completely honest with Pence about what had been discussed. Now, Flynn is offering testimony on the Trump campaign's possible coordination with Russia to the Senate Intelligence Committee in exchange for immunity from prosecution. It is yet to be determined what Flynn would exchange with the Committee and why he would seek immunity in the exchange. Regardless, the Flynn saga is another example of how Trump's presidency has been marred by mistakes.

With his approval ratings dipped into the thirties and forties, President Trump has stumbled at the beginning of his presidency. From the failure of "Trumpcare" to attacks on the media and their so-called "fake news" to weekend trips to the "Southern White House" at Mar-a-Lago, Trump has a long way to go before gaining a trust in the majority of the American people.



## Cont. from Front

fairly consistently over the past six years. Next, MBA faced Hume Fogg, who had placed 3rd in the last two years. With a tough schedule, the A Team went 4-0, dropping only one ballot of 12, to reach the final round against Harpeth Hall's other, less experienced team. The A Team won the championship round on a 3-0 decision to place first in the city and earn a bid to the state tournament for the 7th straight year. Additionally, seniors Andrew Kaplan and John Cooper won best lawyer and witness on the prosecution side in the city, respectively.

During the first weekend of Spring Break, when many students were leaving for trips and sleeping in, the MBA Mock Trial A Team was not yet on leave. The team remained the same, only with the substitution

of two-time award winning witness, Jack Capizzi, who could not compete at city because of his participation in the school play. Trying to defend the 2016 state title, the Big Red competed in another 4 rounds at state, and again earned a spot in the final round, where the Big Red again faced the same Harpeth Hall team, who were in the midst of an impressive historic run. In an extremely close round, with nine judges, the Big Red pulled through and earned the single bid in Tennessee for the Mock Trial



**JUSTICE:** Andrew Kaplan '17 re-enacting his favorite performance of Sam Waterston in Law and Order.

National Championship in Hartford, Connecticut, in May. The team begins preparations for the national competition where they look to

improve upon their 5th place finish in the national championship in 2016.



# Affordable Healthcare: Fix or Nix?

By Ben Frigon  
Staff Political Correspondent

MARCH 25, 2017, WASHINGTON  
After an overwhelming takeover of the House, the Senate, and the White House last November, Republicans nonetheless failed to pass a replacement for the controversial bill on Obamacare.

Many of the Republicans elected last November ran on promises to “repeal and replace” the Affordable Care Act. Early last month, the vaunted replacement plan, the American Healthcare Act or “Trumpcare/Ryancare,” was introduced by House Speaker Paul Ryan. With sights set on a poetic victory, Ryan scheduled the vote for Thursday, March 23, the 7th anniversary of the passage of Obamacare. But when it became apparent that the votes were not there, he quickly rescheduled for the next day.

Our vociferous President wasted no time in criticizing the House Thursday night, tweeting that if the Republicans failed to pass a replacement, then Obamacare would stay the law of the land. The next day, after four hours of debate, it remained clear that the Republicans lacked the votes to pass the bill, and the American Healthcare Act was pulled.

The cause of the bill’s failure was the 40-50 members House Freedom Caucus (a political euphemism for the Tea Party), the extreme right wing faction of the Republican Party. The

Tea Party made it clear that they want repeal with no replacement, and anything less would be unacceptable.

The failure of the American Healthcare Act is quite possibly the most colossal political failure of the last decade. While the White House was certainly embarrassed, the majority of the blame now falls on Paul Ryan, who authored the plan but did not have the gravity to push it through, despite having a 59-seat majority and a Republican-controlled Senate. At one point on Friday, according to a report by the Washington Post, Ryan even got down on one knee and begged Rep. Don Young (R-AK) to support the bill. Ryan was unsuccessful.

The Affordable Care Act is one of the most controversial laws in American history, and both its successes and shortcomings have been made apparent. Opponents say there is simply not enough subsidy money to entice providers to stay in the exchanges. Even now that it is staying, it appears clear the Republican-dominated federal government will make no effort to improve Obamacare. As a result, many states have decided that Medicaid expansion is simply too expensive (in TN alone, the Medicaid budget is \$12 billion, and the state only pays about a third of the cost).

At the same time, proponents say,



WINNING: Trump in a standard pose.

twenty-seven million people now have insurance that couldn’t afford it before under Obamacare. The American Healthcare Act would replace the full exchanges and federal subsidies, with tax credits based mostly on age. This plan, opponents say, would have minimally helped upper-middle class Americans but decimated the majority of the middle class and especially the poor. The real beneficiaries of Ryancare would have been the wealthy, who have seen a slight increase in their federal taxes under Obamacare. Under the American Healthcare Act, about 24 million people would have lost health coverage.

Though it has certainly been embarrassing for the Trump

administration, the failure of the American Healthcare Act may turn out to be a good thing for the GOP, and especially the president. The American Healthcare Act would have hurts millions more than it helped. This failure might also lead to the inevitable end of Ryan, who has been called the most ineffective House Speaker in history. Speaker Ryan has always been at odds with the President, and the movement to replace him is as strong as ever. Most of all, now that healthcare is off the docket the Republicans will now try to move on to less controversial and more effective platform policies, like cutting corporate taxes. No matter what happens next, it is clear that Obamacare will remain.

NASHVILLE STYLE

HOT

CATERING • DELIVERY • ONLINE

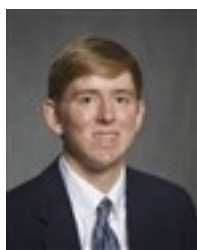
Hattie B's

NASH • B'HAM • HATTIEB.COM

CHICKEN



# Title IX and Sexual Assault in College Athletics



By Ben Coulthard  
Sports Editor

Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, it is stated:

*No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.*

Multiple events in recent months have gotten people asking if Title IX, a law that is supposed to prevent sex discrimination, is doing enough to prevent this discrimination. Does the problem lie with the administration? With the troubles at schools like Baylor University and recent sexual assault cases, many women on university campuses ask questions such as: Are we considered less important because of our gender? Is my assailant getting special treatment due to their being an intercollegiate athlete? Many female students fear they may become the next victim, while already affected victims fear

criticism from those outside of the case.

Stories of women being assaulted are now almost commonplace in the news. Baylor University has dealt with a string of sexual assaults by their student athletes since 2013, and investigations continue. Information released after an investigation by the law firm Pepper Hamilton LLP has led to the removal of the university's president Ken Starr and former head football coach Art Briles, along with the resignation of the athletic director, Ian McCaw. Multiple lawsuits came from multiple women who stated that members of the Baylor football team committed 52 counts of rape over four years between 2011 and 2014, and it was later released members of the football coaching staff, most notably Briles, knew about the assaults and chose not to report their players' crimes.

Adding on to the troubles at



Baylor was the way in which the victims were treated while seeking counseling after the traumatic events they experienced. An article from 2016 in the Houston Chronicle reported the review of 12 cases of sexual assault dating back to 2004 at Baylor. Victims said they came forward "only to be met with ambivalence or skepticism by the school." Not only did authority figures on the football staff take no action, neither did the police. The victims were met with suspicion and asked questions on matters such as their alcohol intake on the night of the assault, or what they were wearing. According to the same Chronicle article, one victim said a police officer told her to "think" before she decided to file criminal charges.

The problem lies with the authority figures. Victims come to them in search of asylum. At Baylor, police and administration treated the victims with disdain. They were encouraged not to pursue their cases, and attempts were made to cover-up the cases in the interest of the athlete. Once the stories reached the

public, those unfamiliar with the situation made comments such as "She was asking for it" or "She obviously started it." But what occurred should not matter. Another wrong does not make what occurred right. It should be common knowledge that rape is a detestable act, has zero place in society, and deserves to be taken seriously in every case.

Before anything can happen, there needs to be more conversation about this topic. Coaches, parents, and athletes have to understand the position they are in, as many are role models. All will be put in the tough position of having to do the right thing. It's time, as men and as athletes, to realize that being an athlete doesn't give special privileges.

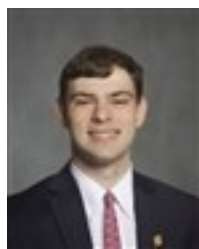


**EQUALITY?** Ben Coulthard '18 examines issues of sexual assault in their relation to athletics on college campuses.





# The Disparity between MBA and HH Attitudes



By Peter Taylor  
Editor-in-Chief

At a time when attempts at discourse are often more of an excuse for conflict than a vehicle for ideas, it's hard to

imagine a place more divided than the current political landscape of the United States.

Look no further than the campus of Montgomery Bell Academy. Contrary to the model of our nation's climate, however, political discord does not ostensibly dominate the classrooms and hallways of The Hill. Instead, it permeates them, seeping and oozing into the general consciousness of our students on a level profound enough to be acknowledged, yet subtle enough to be missed.

As evident to anyone who attends an MBA sporting event or peaks in at an assembly, mob mentality pervades The Hill. Perhaps a consequence of the brotherhood of resilience and tenacity that unites MBA students, this mob mentality contradicts the spirit of careful and critical thought that defines our curriculum, capitalizing on the human, particularly male tendency to follow instead of lead.

Instead of exploiting such conviction for constructive purposes in the way that many Harpeth Hall students have done, such as bonding together in the Nashville Women's March, this attitude does not merely promote camaraderie, but extends to become something more harmful. Beyond inappropriate crowd chants at MBA games and the desire to utter offensive if facetious jokes, MBA students attach such an attitude to their approach to politics as well. Though the attitude does not completely guide their political views, it amplifies and illuminates the unsavory aspects of the ways they show support.

The student body of MBA seems to be labelled by Nashville at large as a school filled singularly by Trump

supporters. Earlier this year, Headmaster Brad Gioia expressed to me personally his fear that a portrait of MBA would be painted in such broad strokes, ignoring the diversity of thought on campus.

You may inquire as to the nature and doubtful existence of such diversity, but it lies at the core of everything the school represents. MBA is first and foremost an educational institution that teaches students to think and learn independently.

Where is this diversity, then? It is masked by the vigor of people who only make up a portion of our school's identity. In this case, as is habitual throughout history, the voice of the mob, where conservative and restrained thought are united by enthusiasm for belligerence and energy, is louder than the voice of everyone else.

MBA is not depleted of differing thinkers. Yet these thinkers either express their views reticently or are overshadowed by the far more powerful voices. The existence and conviction of such people is not necessarily noticeable, even to those within the community. Tenured English teacher Jo Palmore earlier this year cut herself off from a political rant, believing that everyone in our class found her crazy, unaware that my classmates and I all shared the views that she felt so contradictory to MBA students.

Yet if a voice doesn't cry out loud enough to assert itself, what makes it any more valid than those whose discordant sentiments it tries to address? Herein lies the problem: within such an insular community where liberal and critical thought is often difficult



**LOGOS NOW:** (Left to Right): Jack Capizzi '18, Andrew Kaplan '17, Peter Taylor '17, John Fioravanti '17, Joe Spear '18, several key members of the staff of The Bell Ringer. Logos' Opinions Editor Carrie Haynes reached out to Taylor in an effort to build a stronger relationship of collaboration over competition between the school papers.

to translate from the classroom to the world, students are often lost as to how they might best express their convictions in a way both helpful and cooperative.

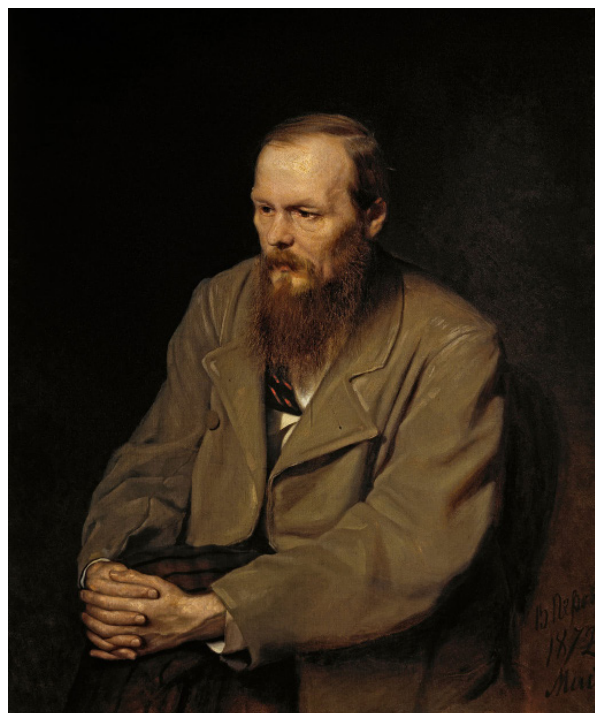
MBA boys often paint Harpeth Hall as a school where the girls play the role of victim, bitterly capitalizing on the loss of their widely preferred political candidate to pity themselves and garner sympathy. Harpeth Hall girls seem to paint MBA students as wildly misogynist and restrained in their line of thinking, undesirous or even incapable of grasping the importance of what they vehemently seem not to support. Both viewpoints have engendered discord and even outright hostility between both schools. Neither viewpoint is correct.

Harpeth Hall students are merely standing up for the inalienable rights they fear are in danger in a presidential administration seemingly established

through apathy for such rights. On the other hand, MBA students are either unaware of the importance of such a cause or unable to support it effectively in light of their constraints by MBA's insularity or the crowd mentality that always seems to prevail.

The problem is clear. Wherein, therefore, lies the solution? It begins with communication. All it takes is an open mind from both schools. Such a task is much easier said than done, but if both schools make an effort actually to create a dialogue, we will have somewhere to start. Where we go from there, only discussion will tell.

*This article was originally written for and published in Logos, the student-run newspaper of Harpeth Hall School.*



**Do you enjoy crafting sentences about subjects other than the symbolism of the Mississippi River in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*?  
Are you skilled in or knowledgeable about something interesting or uncovered?**

**Are you anxious to submit your application to an Ivy League school but feel like your activities section will look a little weak?**

**Then write for *The Bell Ringer*!**

**Don't be like everyone's favorite Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoevsky, who had no other outlet for his philosophical and intellectual ideas than his 800-page tomes filled with characters named Raskolnikov and Porfiry Petrovich. Come to a meeting in Lowry 14 and you're off and running.**





**THE BELL RINGER**

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
*Peter Taylor*

NEWS EDITOR  
*Andrew Kaplan*

ASST. NEWS EDITOR  
*Philip Scholer*

FEATURES EDITOR  
*John Fioravanti*

ASST. FEATURES EDITOR  
*Joe Spear*

SPORTS EDITOR  
*Ben Coulthard*

ASST. SPORTS EDITOR  
*Palmer Thombs*

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR/BUSINESS  
MANAGER  
*Jack Capizzi*

OPINIONS EDITOR  
*John Glover*

ASST. OPINIONS EDITOR  
*Mac Roberts*

WEBMASTER  
*Hamilton Garber*

FACULTY ADVISOR  
*Mr. Matt Hutton*

ASST. FACULTY ADVISOR  
*Mr. Win Bassett*

MEMBER, TENNESSEE HIGH SCHOOL PRESS ASSOCIATION

*The Bell Ringer* is a non-profit newspaper operated and published by and for the students of Montgomery Bell Academy, who are its intended audience. Views expressed in *The Bell Ringer* do not necessarily represent those held by the staff or school.

Letters to the Editor are encouraged, and can be delivered to the *Bell Ringer* office in the Lowry Building, the Faculty Advisors or the Editors, or sent to [bellringer@montgomerybell.edu](mailto:bellringer@montgomerybell.edu) (simply type 'Bell Ringer' into the school email). These letters must be signed; *The Bell Ringer* neither publishes anonymous submissions of opinions or articles nor permits individuals to remain unidentified unless protected by other rules of confidentiality at MBA. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

The staff of *The Bell Ringer* prepares all copy at Montgomery Bell Academy. Tennessean/Gannett in Nashville, Tennessee, prints the paper.

# 150th Year Window

## April

50 Days to Graduation Picnic for Seniors	Thu, Apr 13, 6:00pm
Fourth Mid-Quarter	Thu, Apr 13
Spring Holiday	Fri, Apr 14
Student-Directed One-Act Plays	Wed - Fri, Apr 19-21
Theme Day	Thu, Apr 20
Founders' Day	Thu, Apr 20, 9:40am
Mother-Son Spring Breakfast	Wed, Apr 26, 7:30am
Carter Invitational Tennis	Fri - Sat, Apr 28-29
ENDADA Arts Festival	Sat, Apr 29, 11:00am
150th Anniversary Celebration	Sat, Apr 29, 6:00pm

## May

AP Exams	Mon-Fri, May 1-12
Senior Sports Breakfast	Fri, May 5, 7:00am
Leavers Dinner	Wed, May 17, 6:15pm
Second Semester Classes End (½ Day)	Thu, May 18
Second Semester Exams	Fri-Fri, May 19-26
Memorial Day	Mon, May 29
Senior Mother-Son Luncheon	Tue, May 30, 12:00pm
JS Honors and 8th Grade Graduation	Tue, May 30, 6:30pm
Honors Convocation	Wed, May 31, 6:30 pm

## June

Commencement	Thu, June 1, 6:30pm
--------------	---------------------

**YOU!**

**Do you have any experience with web design? Or even better, are you interested in getting involved with the production of a website?**

**We need your creative input and unique perspectives to make *The Bell Ringer* the best it can be.**

**Contact Peter Taylor, Mr. Hutton, or Mr. Bassett if interested.**



# Renaissance Man Behind the Scenes

By John Fioravanti  
Features Editor

Chances are you've seen Mr. David Norton around campus working. In fact, you probably see him every day, yet the vast majority of students don't know what he does and have never spoken to him.

David Norton, age 61, is Montgomery Bell Academy's head of facilities management and a native Nashvillian. He was born and raised in Woodbine, the flat rock area of South Nashville, and has lived in Nashville his entire life except for four years he lived in Dallas.

He has a brother who is two years older than he is and a sister who is seven years younger. His grandfather, who taught Mr. Norton much of what he knows, owned a lot of property: businesses, a grocery store, a restaurant, even a hotel. The hotel, Hickerson Motel Court, sold many rooms to people traveling to the Grand Ole Opry. Norton even painted picket fences for a quarter an hour when he was ten years old.

As for his education, Mr. Norton attended Glencliff Elementary and Paragon Mills for a time. At the beginning of the 7th grade, he moved to West Nashville to attend West End Middle School, after which he graduated to attend Hillsboro High School. After a year at Hillsboro, he attended Peabody Demonstration School, which is now known as USN.

After high school, Mr. Norton attended Aquinas College for 2 years for an associates degree. This was a two-year general study with a focus in psychology and English, and more specifically on etymology.

After graduation, Mr. Norton worked for nearly twelve years as a contractor using many of the skills his grandfather taught him. After a decade of work, Norton returned to school, Tennessee State University, for a degree in elementary education. However, the year he graduated, 600 teachers were laid off due to budget issues. There were jobs available, even as a substitute, so Mr. Norton returned to contracting. He specialized in older buildings working

on many historical projects such as the Ryman Auditorium and the Belle Meade Mansion. Perhaps this specialization was passed on by his father, an architectural draftsman, who drew the original plans for the Opryland Hotel. Mr. Norton helped his father measure rooms by hand for his work as a kid.

Mr. Norton went into facility management after working a total of fifteen years as a contractor. He worked at West End Methodist Church and Steven's Aviation before coming to MBA on May 13, 1996. This year will mark his 21st with MBA, a span of time during which Mr. Norton has seen remodeling and renovation of every building on campus, beginning with the library. Much of his job has been managing the construction of these buildings. Additionally, until two years ago, Mr. Norton managed day-to-day labor on campus: the setup and cleanup of events, repairs, management, and "behind-the-scenes" work. Mr. Norton jokes, "I often say I'm Dirty Harry, I do all the dirty jobs." In addition to managing events, Mr. Norton was in charge of every subcontractor MBA employs, overseeing cleaning, security, the kitchen, the grounds, athletic facilities, and remote properties such as Long Mountain and the 42nd Avenue Field.

These were Mr. Norton's responsibilities until two years ago when the maintenance staff and the school decided that there needed to be additional labor. As a result, MBA hired School Facility Management (SFM) to take over facility management and day-to-day operations. During this transition, Mr. Norton was asked to become a senior manager and be a liaison between MBA and SFM. Mr. Norton was also asked to oversee all special projects and events such as the Father Son Dinner, Mother Son Breakfast, Spaghetti Supper, and any renovations of buildings.

This year has been particularly busy due to the 150th Anniversary, which has added additional work for many events, as well as other renovations such as the cosmetic work on the Patrick Wilson Library and Ball Building.

**INSIDE THE MACHINE:** An inside shot into David Norton's office, unseen by his daily



schedule, it varies from day to day: "You don't go into maintenance if you don't like surprises." Mr. Norton says, "It can be tricky to plan your day." He explains that emergency repairs such as the flooding of the library can instantly become top priority, but most days he actually starts his days at home in ensuring the comfort levels of the campus. He is alerted early in the morning if there are issues with buildings' comfort levels and in response can access a building's environment via his computer at home.

Mr. Norton next moves on to the day's activities, which usually begin with making sure special events are set up. Usually, preparation is done the afternoon or evening before, but Norton must ensure that things have been done right.

Next, Mr. Norton sees if he has any meetings that day. Among other groups he is a part of, he is in an events committee that plans for logistical issues with the events during the following weeks. For example, they discuss and plan for parking conflicts and having certain buildings locked and unlocked.

Aside from meetings and special events, Mr. Norton is still called to the field sometimes for repairs, but this is much more rare than it used to be. Of course, as Mr. Norton said, issues can arise from nowhere, and his schedule can vary: "I try to work until 4:30 p.m., but it can often be 6:00 or 6:30 p.m. There's an old expression we often use in the service industry that is 'You stop when working then the work stops.'"

Mr. Norton returns home after work to his wife, Mary Jane. She is "retired and loving retirement" after working for thirty-four years as a diaconal minister with the Board of



**BEYOND THE MYSTERY:** Features Editor John Fioravanti '17 with David Norton, campus handyman extraordinaire.

Discipleship for the Methodist Church. The Nortons have been married for 35 years and have had two kids who are now grown, but Mr. Norton has a total of three, one from a previous marriage.

As for Mr. Norton's retirement, he plans to work another 5 years before he would retire at the age of 66. Before he retires, he would like to see the new renovations of the athletic centers and the football field be completed, as well as the purchase of the Vine Street property. He would also like to work with students more: "[MBA] is a great place to be, but my one regret is I don't interact with the students anymore than I get to. When my boys were here I knew most of their classmates, but they're all gone."

Mr. Norton did a night class on home repair and improvements and does the Kennedy talk every year in November. Researching and discussing the Kennedy assassination has been a lifelong passion of his that he picked up when living in Dallas in 1974: "I spent parts of my weekend at Dealey Plaza looking around and testing out theories and looking at trajectories, that sort of thing," Norton says, "I could talk for all day on it." Mr. Norton would also like to do a class on Jimi Hendrix: "I might try to pursue that," he says.

Aside from his interest in JFK's assassination, Mr. Norton is a musician who plays a host of instruments: guitar, keyboard, bass, and drums. Mr. Norton remarks, "I can keep a beat on the drums, but I can't do anything flashy."

When asked about singing, Mr. Norton jokes, "I have sung but it's usually better when I don't. I have performed songs in front of large groups, and they didn't throw anything, but later in life my voice isn't what it was, so I don't scare anybody anymore, but I would love to get my songs out there." These songs Mr. Norton mentions are actually songs he's written himself as he is both an instrumentalist and a songwriter.

His interest in playing was born from



# Big Red Debate Carves Path to Nationals

By Aden Barton  
Staff Attorney

With just a few more tournaments left in the year, the MBA Debate team has ratcheted up research and practice. As it approaches the homestretch, every spare second must be devoted to debate. Finding a single newspaper article or writing out a few words for a speech could mean the difference between a win and a loss. At no time in the year has research and preparation been more important.

The debate team has also just finished the part of the year with the most tournaments. With locations ranging from Florida to California, the squad has traveled all around the country. In one of the most eventful weekends of the year, the team split up and the partnerships of Julian Habermann and Aden Barton (MBA BH), and Liam Jameson and Atticus Glen (MBA GJ) went to California. The Berkeley tournament is one of the biggest and most fun tournaments. Partnerships from all over the country travel to compete. Before the regular tournament began, Atticus and Liam competed in the round robin where they advanced to semifinals. Once the tournament began, both MBA teams went 5-1 in preliminary rounds, putting them at high seeds. Unlike most tournaments, the elimination rounds at Berkeley begin with 64 teams instead of 32 teams because of the massive size of the tournament. Julian and Aden advanced to the octofinals, beating a top ten team in the nation before losing to the third team in the country. Atticus and Liam managed to make it to semifinals before losing to the rival of MBA, the extremely skilled Peninsula partnership.

Across the country, MBA had two other teams competing at Pinecrest tournament. The partnership of Ben

Jablonski and John Cooper and the duo of Ben Rosenthal and Andrew Kaplan attended the pre-tournament round robin. They faced top partnerships in the nation and consistently came out ahead. Kaplan and Rosenthal advanced to the finals of the round robin and lost a close round to a school called Woodward. As the actual tournament began, both teams had successful prelims. Andrew and Ben went 6-0 and secured a top seed. Jablonski and Cooper went 4-2. Both teams secured a spot in the elimination rounds. Unfortunately, Ben J. and John had an unlucky pairing and faced a top ten team in the nation and lost. Kaplan and Rosenthal made it to the finals, edging out several skilled teams, before losing to the same Woodward School.

In debate, there are three high school sections. There is a novice section for first year debaters, a JV section for second year debaters, and a Varsity section for 3rd and 4th year debaters. The circuit is split up this way to make tournaments more competitive and give beginning debaters more fair adversaries. Once every year in Georgia, the Woodward schools host the Novice and JV championships, meaning that 1st and 2nd year debaters compete for a national title in their respective divisions. MBA is known for our Novice and Junior Varsity program as we have won the Novice National Championship for the past two years and have secured top speaker awards in the Junior Varsity Section regularly. This year, MBA debate sent several talented teams to Georgia to compete.

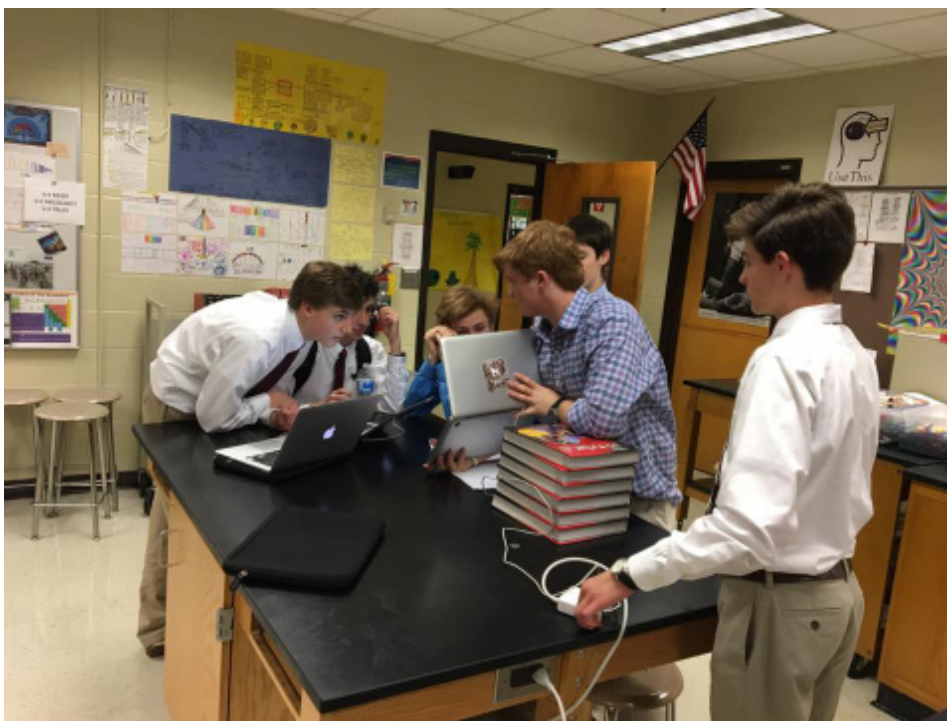
In the novice section, the partnership of Connor Kolstad and Colin Smith had an impressive preelimination record of 4-2 but did not clear to the elimination rounds. Stewart Moore amazingly debated maverick, meaning without a partner, for several rounds of the tournament and still did well.

In the junior varsity section, the MBA team did phenomenal. The partnership of Sam Funk and Jack Rankin went undefeated in prelims, securing the 1st seed. Similarly, the duo of William Bradford and Alex Kalams only lost one round. With both teams' debating in the elimination rounds, MBA debate was representing well. Funk and Rankin lost in quarterfinals in a close 3-2 decision to the team that went on to win the tournament. Kalams and Bradford advanced all the way to the semifinals in an impressive run. In terms of speaker awards, Sam Funk and Jack Rankin got 7th and 8th speaker respectively.

As the end of the debate season comes into view, the motto "It's a marathon not a sprint" becomes even more important. Debates are not won on pure skill or luck alone; instead, hours and hours of preparation are

needed to ensure success. Luckily for us, the MBA debate team is one of the best teams in the country not only at researching but at preparation overall. Time and time again, the countless hours that debaters like Ben Rosenthal and Ben Jablonski have put in have paid off with more and more wins. However, at the Tournament of Champions, where national champions are decided, anything can happen. Number one seeds are routinely upset and top teams in the nation don't always advance to elimination rounds. The unpredictable nature of the tournament, combined with high intensity rounds, makes preparation more valuable at this tournament than any other competition of the year because the team that is more comfortable with their arguments will come out ahead.

**CRUNCH TIME:** Several MBA debaters frantically researching and preparing for a debate.



## Cont from Page 8

his love of listening to music when he was a kid: "My brother and I shared a room, and we shared a record player. So, we would stack up albums while we studied and listen to music. The rule was we'd stack one of mine, one his, one of mine, one of his. Mine were Hendrix, Led Zeppelin, that sort of thing. His were like the Association, the Lettermen, that kind of soft rock stuff. And what he did not know at the time was that I liked all of it."

Mr. Norton is a fan of bluegrass, rock, country: "I love all types of music. I grew up listening to country radio," he says, "Recently, I've learned to like some rap. I've always thought it was poetry, but I didn't care for some of the subject matter. But now with the advent of things like Hamilton, I enjoy it. I don't categorically dislike any music."

Other than spending time with his music and historical research, Mr. Norton would like to spend more time outdoors. He camped when he was younger and

would like to continue to do so once retired.

Another one of Mr. Norton's aspirations is to work with juvenile first offenders and teach them how to repair houses. Then, he would actually work with the kids to repair houses for people who can't afford to have their houses repaired. In this way, the impoverished can have better shelter and the kids can build a skill set to push them to a job rather than a life of crime. In addition to all this work, Mr. Norton would like to travel, but his health could affect his ability to fulfill these wishes in his retirement.

In his mid-50s, Mr. Norton was diagnosed with Parkinson's. Parkinson's is a movement disorder where the brain stops making dopamine, the chemical that controls movement. There are a variety of symptoms, including an affected gait when one walks: "You line up a hundred people with Parkinson's and you'd have eight-eight different things showing,"

Mr. Norton remarks. One of the most common symptoms is a tremor, but Mr. Norton does not have this. One symptom Mr. Norton does possess is brain Akinesia which can cause exaggerated movements and "brain freezes." Mr. Norton gets these freezes from time to time, once during a Kennedy talk. Mr. Norton discusses a possible scenario: "I'll be in line trying to get my change out of my wallet, and I'm fumbling. And it's the pressure because I know people are waiting. You feel kind of embarrassed you can't do it faster."

The prognosis for Parkinson's, however, is optimistic. Though the disease is progressive and can lead to other diseases, it is not fatal: "Dealing with that has been a struggle. You know, some days are more of a struggle than other days. Some days, it's hard to swallow. Some days, you have to go to the bathroom a lot more. It's just a lot of different symptoms. You just never know. Each day is a different carnival ride," Mr. Norton says.

This would be the only reason Norton

would be unable to work, but he is optimistic. In fact, the disease can be a "blessing and a curse," as one of Mr. Norton's is a near complete loss of smell. A symptom he has had for nearly 15 years: "There was a dead animal in the basement of the Gioia's house one time," Mr. Norton remarks, "and the workers couldn't stay in there because it smelled so bad. I went in there and brought the animal out, and they were outside puking. It didn't even bother me. I couldn't smell it. I guess that part's the blessing."

Mr. Norton has thought about doing an assembly on Parkinson's to raise awareness both about the disease and a walk on June 3, the National Parkinson Foundation's annual fundraising walk/run fundraiser called Moving Day.

It is clear that Mr. Norton is not only an invaluable contributor to campus but also an engaging and interesting person. The Hill is a better place for his presence.





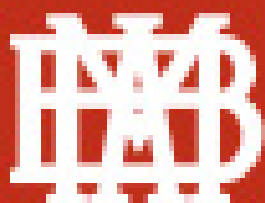
# THINK BIG

**MOE'S SOUTHWEST GRILL**

**4326 Harding Rd. Suite 101**

**Nashville, TN 37205**

**615-383-7871**



**SCOTT PORTIS, CLASS OF '84**  
**MCCLAIN PORTIS, CLASS OF '18**



# Spear Takes Eton by Storm, is Transformed

By Joe Spear  
Staff Expat

For the third quarter of this year, I was lucky enough to be able to attend Eton College in Windsor, England. Eton is an independent, all-boys boarding school founded in 1440 by King Henry the Sixth and is home to about 1250 boys aging from 13-18, the equivalent of 8th-12th grade at MBA. While at first it was a bit nerve-racking going into an unfamiliar country where I knew no one, it quickly turned into the best three months of my life. Although it does share a few similarities with MBA, for the most part it is quite different.

For starters, Eton has a block schedule, so unlike MBA where we have the same schedule every day, at Eton I had a new set of classes every day, varying from as few as three to as many as 6. And unlike MBA where we have class from 8-3:10 Monday through Friday, at Eton I had classes on Monday through Saturday, with half days on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Even though there were classes on Saturday, the schedule is much more comfortable at Eton than at MBA, and I was only in class from 9:00 AM until 11:20AM. On a regular day, I typically wouldn't wake up until around 7:50, I would eat breakfast, and then head to Chapel at 8:35. Chapel only lasted about 15 minutes until around 8:50 and from there I would head to classes at 9. I took Economics, Politics and Government, English Literature, and History of Art. Being able to take some classes that I will not be able to take at MBA was quite nice as it gave me a taste of some new subjects and information that I would like to pursue in the future. Having the luxury of not waking up until 7:50 is incredible, and the break in the middle of the day for sport from 1:15 until 4:30 allows your mind to take a break, which I noticed creates a much more focused classroom experience, as it eliminates the dullness that can come with having classes for 7 hours straight. Similarly, the half-days on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday make the week seem so much less difficult, as 5 straight days of full class can often become very dull. Every other day being short is a true blessing.

Eton also places less emphasis on pointless busy work and instead on essays due throughout periodic increments that actually allows for you to do research on the topic without having the imminent time restraints that a repetitive schedule cause. I felt as if I was actually learning the subjects rather than memorizing information to regurgitate back on a test. Because it is a boarding school, myself and around 50 other boys lived in a dorm house where we would spend much of our free time, sleep, hang out, and eat meals. Every boy has their own room and there are about 10 kids per grade in each house, creating a family like environment. The boarding house was a great amount of fun, and if we weren't studying we would be playing darts, soccer in the halls, or going to various shops and restaurants in Eton and Windsor. The boarding school environment was spectacular and provided constant entertainment for all of us.

Outside of school, I was fortunate enough to be able to take several trips during my stay in England. I spent about 13 days total in London on several different outings. I took a short weekend trip during my first couple of weeks to London's South Bank where I was able to see Parliament, the London Eye, Big Ben, and other tourist attractions as well. Outside of the city, I stayed with one of my best friends at his house in Sussex, which is located in the country side, giving me a feel for English life outside of the city. About halfway through the term, Eton has a long leave, which is the equivalent length to our Spring Break. I was off of school from February 10th until the 19th, in which I stayed at several of my friend's houses all across London. I saw an array of London's best attractions, including an Arsenal match, Camden Market, Portobello road, the Shard, Tower Bridge, the London Bridge, St. Paul's Cathedral, and many more. This break from Eton was a nice time to relax, because although the workload is less at Eton, I was still doing a substantial amount of assignments from both Eton and MBA during the school week.

One of my biggest highlights from my

quarter abroad was definitely the trip to Paris that I was lucky enough to go on. There was a B weekend at Eton, meaning you could leave school from Saturday afternoon until Sunday night, so a buddy of mine and I decided we would go to Paris for the night. We took the Eurostar train from London to Paris under the English Channel, and arrived in Paris on Saturday night. It was without a doubt one of the busiest

24 hours of my life. I had never been to Paris, so it was all brand new to me and I wanted to make the most of my short time. We went halfway up the Eiffel Tower, had a great dinner by the Tower, went to the Arc de Triumf, walked around the Grand Palais, saw the Palace de Concorde, and walked a couple miles around Paris at night. We booked an Airbnb that was in the heart of the city to stay in, giving us a place to sleep for a couple of hours before heading back into the city. We woke up very early Sunday morning to maximize our time left in the day. We watched the sunrise in the Jardin de Luxembourg park, saw the Pantheon, had a great breakfast in the downtown area, walked to the Louvre and saw hundreds of paintings and sculptures. The Louvre was easily one of the coolest places I have ever been to in my whole entire life. The history was truly mind blowing. After the Louvre, we headed to the Notre Dame and did a quick tour of the Church. We had lunch, I had my first macaroons, and we kept on moving through Paris and onto the Picasso museum! After



**DOWN TO THE WATERLINE:** Assistant Features Editor Joe Spear (right) with a friend from Eton standing on the bank of the Thames in London, England.

the Picasso museum we headed to the Sacre Coeur and walked all 300 of the stairs to the top of the Dome! The views were so amazing, some of the best I have ever seen! After this action packed 24 hours, we took the train back to London and eventually made it back to Eton on Sunday night. This trip was a very special added bonus and one of my favorite memories from my term.

All in all, my Eton experience was the best three months of my whole life and I encourage every single current sophomore to at least look into it. It is very hard to put into words all of the great things that I did while I was abroad and especially how great it was. I would not trade the memories and friends that I made on this trip for anything. If you are chosen to go on this life changing exchange, you will not regret it in the slightest.

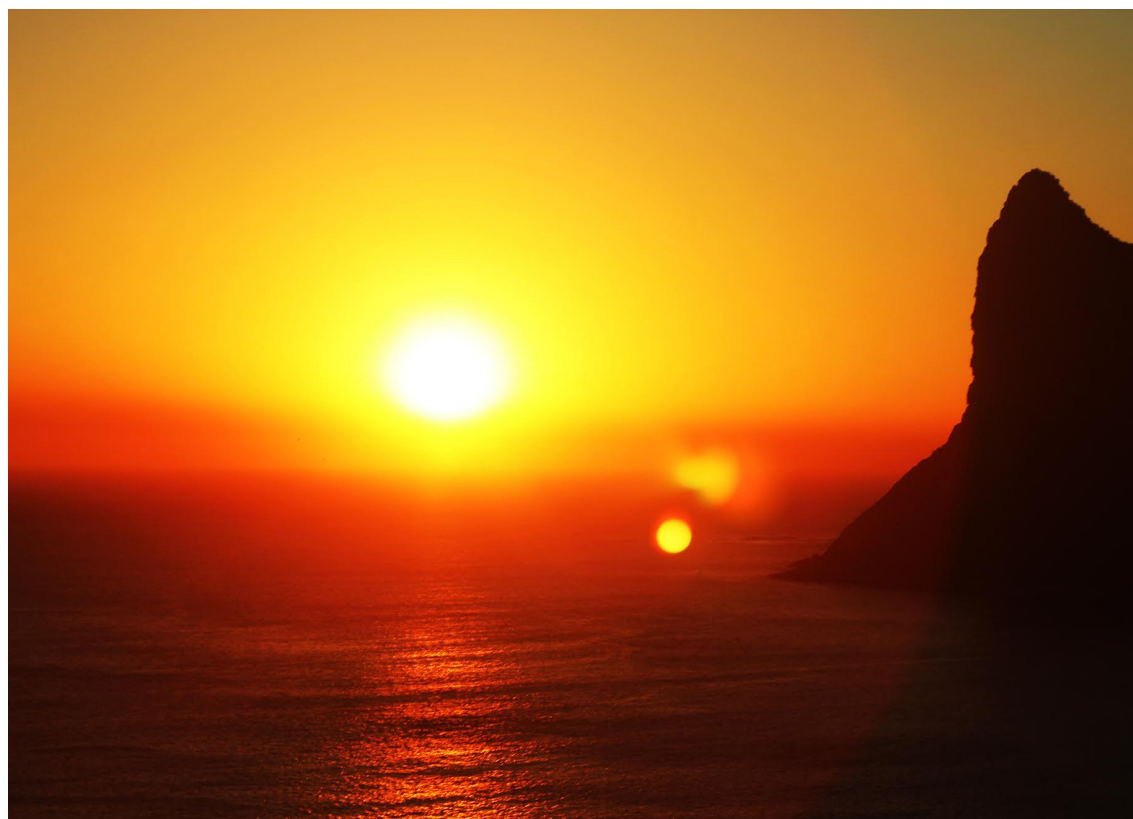
*This article was originally published in a modified form in the Eton Chronicle, the news magazine of Eton College.*

**FLOREAT ETONA:** Eton College's famous Gothic era chapel, a staple of the English "public school."





# Spring Break Act



## South Africa

Cape Town is a city of superlatives. It is one of the largest, busiest, prettiest, most diverse and fun cities in the world. For the duration of Spring Break, Cape Town was home to fourteen MBA students and two faculty members and provided an outstanding location for a restful break from the grind of The Hill.

While the stereotypical Spring Break usually involves sitting on the beach and relaxing, the group of MBA boys ventured halfway around the world to serve others. Also able to enjoy tourist activities throughout Cape Town and the surrounding area, the students had plenty of time to relax from the grind of school. Thanks to the group's friendly drivers, Barnabas and Frans, and the South African culture as whole, the trip taught lessons that could not have been learned from simply being on sand. Apart from the cultural shock of driving on the left-hand side of the road and being thanked for the honor of being able to do something rather than being told "you're welcome," the MBA boys saw firsthand how truly privileged that those on The Hill are and how far serving others can go towards the greater good of not only the community but also the world. A special thanks goes to Ms. Williams and Coach Golenor for going on the adventure with the group and dealing with teenage immaturity all week long.





# Cross the Globe



## Dominican Republic

Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors from MBA and Harpeth Hall embarked on a service trip to the Dominican Republic. The expedition, lead by Mr. Norton, has the purpose of developing and assisting a community just outside of Santo Domingo called Cielo. For five days, the MBA and HH students built homes, played sports with Dominican children, and made new Dominican friends. The daily routine consisted of laying concrete blocks in the morning, playing with kids or visiting homes in the afternoon, and swimming or playing sports at the hotel in the evening. Home visits, conversations with Dominican families, and a church service in Cielo allowed everyone to learn about and appreciate the culture. New friendships, refined Spanish-speaking skills, games of soccer and basketball, lack of injuries or sicknesses, and hard work made the trip a huge success; not even a missed flight back to Nashville could derail anyone's spirits. After they rented vans and made the four hour drive back home from Atlanta, it's safe to say that the consensus among the group was that it was a Spring Break well spent. Many thanks go to Mr. Norton, who made the trip possible, and Ms. Hackney, Mrs. Bassett, and Mr. Todd "Compost" Prevost (not to mention the teachers from Harpeth Hall, who also deserve many thanks) for helping out and making sure the trip was successful.

## London, England

Mr. Morrison and Mrs. Lechleiter led 10 MBA boys to London, England, the homeland of Dr. Boyd, to experience the amazing sights and sounds of the city. The well-planned trip gave the group a look at all parts of life in London, from a Premier League game to plays in some of the greatest theatres in England. Additionally, Mr. Morrison hand-picked a variety of restaurants that expanded everyone's palate.

As well as London's finest eateries, Mr. Morrison led the gents to a number of tourist attractions: the Tower of London, the Houses of Parliament, and the London Eye. Along with these major sights, Mr. Morrison planned walking tours that took the group to the lesser-known parts of London. One walking tour was about London street art. Another was a tour discussing the grim and bloody stories of London's history.

Though all these events were great, the one attraction that everyone loved was the English Premier League game, Crystal Palace vs. Watford. The group had amazing tickets, close to the field just between the Palace and Watford fan sections. The lively atmosphere at these games is entirely different from that of American sporting events. Each fan section had different songs and chants to heckle each side and support their team. All the MBA boys got into the game and by the end were converted to be Crystal Palace supporters.

Mr. Morrison was also able to get tickets to the newest plays in London. First, the students saw a play called *The Miser*, a hilarious work about the greed of a father. Next, we saw a serious play about a rubber shop and its struggle to stay in business. The final play was a creative and artistically-pleasing work about the life of Robert Evans, an American director, actor, and producer. The group was given a taste of different genres, so there was something interesting for everyone.

The London Spring Break trip is something everyone should consider. Mr. Morrison packs all the greatness London has to offer into a week long Spring Break trip. It is certain that all the students who went this year could tell you this was one of the best trips they've ever been on.





# Field Day 2017

***Cardinal*****versus*****Silver***

*Seventh Grade: 75  
Eighth Grade: 165  
Ninth Grade: 225  
Tenth Grade: 202.5  
Eleventh Grade: 402.5  
Twelfth Grade: 380  
Improv: 0  
6x200 relay: 200  
Senior Tug: 100  
All School Tug: 200*

***Total Points: 1910***

*Seventh Grade: 150  
Eighth Grade: 135  
Ninth Grade: 137.5  
Tenth Grade: 247.5  
Eleventh Grade: 245  
Twelfth Grade: 300  
Improv: 200  
6x200 relay: 0  
Senior Tug: 0  
All School Tug: 0*

***Total Points: 1465***



***Cardinal Takes the Banner***



# Chess on Campus: Pastime or New Sport?

By John Fioravanti  
Staff Investigator

It started as a few matches on P. Hale Plaza. Now it's grown into dozens of chess matches a week in the senior room.

The chess phenomenon has sparked the interest of the greater MBA community. *The Bell Ringer* staff felt it was only right to discover what is really going on. With a single entrance to the room, infiltrating was an extremely difficult process, but *The Bell Ringer* was able to get its team of investigators inside for exclusive interviews with chess table regulars.

The team reported that reasons for playing chess were surprisingly varied among seniors. Senior Jack Anderson "wanted to learn something new." Perhaps MBA's quest for knowledge has rubbed off on him. Other seniors claim chess to be a function of the "non-existent" senior slide. Ben Rosenthal says, "I think the idea is that we don't want to put in academic effort anymore, but we still have to be mentally engaged at school, so...chess." Or as Brandon Glazer simply put it, "The main reason I'm playing chess right now is because we're not allowed to go home yet."

The most insightful observation, however, was by senior Josh Key who theorized chess's popularity is high because "there's not a pool table." This is a seemingly odd observation, but Josh brings up a

good point. Perhaps the lack of other forms of entertainment forced seniors to adapt to chess much like the Galapagos finches adapt to different food sources. In this way, Josh's genius is on the level of Charles Darwin's.

As the team dove deeper into the investigation, they discovered that the nature of the senior room is much like the customs of a foreign nation or perhaps some native tribe. There are certain rules and courtesies to be followed at the table, and for that matter, in the senior room itself. Breaking these rules can be a danger to both one's reputation and, more immediately, one's health.

Excessive noise, especially that of electronic devices, will incur the wrath of the college counseling office, who surround the senior den, especially that of Mrs. Davidson. "Headphones" is a warning to seniors who making too much noise, and those who do not heed this warning could face a shameful exile. Additionally, whistling is strictly prohibited by Mrs. Moon. Any whistle will prompt yelling from across the hall.

As far as chess goes, games follow the standard rules, but seniors enjoy casual play. There is no clock or "touch-move rule," and from time to time, groups of four will get together to switch things up by playing a game of bug house. But, as Dylan Haselton stated, "These things are not important." He's probably right, most readers probably won't care about



**BUGHOUSE:** Five seniors square off in a tense chess match in the senior room, where students can always be found using the room's three boards.

this, if they made it this far anyways. He also briefly mentioned, "I don't want to be quoted."

As the team finished their investigation, it became evident that the complexities of this phenomenon are extensive. To sum up their 276-page report, students seem to play for mental engagement, socialization,

and even procrastination. But above all, the main reason appears to be, simply, the presence of three chessboards in the senior room. And in hindsight, that's really about as far as one needs to look into it. (Don't tell the investigation team this.)

**POINTLESS:** "This is going to be the most boring article in *The Bell Ringer*." - Dylan Haselton



## Welcome to the Kingdom!

Montgomery Bell Academy,  
Here's your Smoothie King welcome coupon! Print & present this coupon at the Belle Meade Smoothie King at 4546 Harding Pike and receive:

A FREE  
20 oz SMOOTHIE!\*

with purchase of 20 oz. or larger smoothie





7408555500

\*Please present photo ID with coupon. Not valid with any other offer. No cash value. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Any alterations to this certificate will make it non-redeemable. This certificate may only be used once. Excludes Power Meals, Malts, Shakes and Kids' Kups. Valid only at participating locations. Some restrictions may apply. Offer expires 14 days from date sent. Free smoothie must be of equal or lesser value.





# Nashville Bacchanalia: Rites of Spring Lights Up Music City

By John Thornton  
Staff Musicophile

Rites of Spring, the annual Spring music festival at Vanderbilt University, has become a highly-anticipated event for both college students and local Nashvillians throughout the years. During the 60s and 70s, Vanderbilt strove to increase its connection with the city's community. The university created an "open-campus" policy which would allow Nashville's population to visit the school at their leisure, whether for large events or simply to play a game of soccer. One such large event was the Rites of Spring Music Festival, instituted in 1971.

Rites of Spring has grown dramatically during its 45 years of existence. While its early years saw smaller artists and fewer performers, today's Rites has hosted big names such as Drake, Twenty-One Pilots, and Future. This year's festival includes everything from popular hip-hop artists to smaller indie acts in its lineup.

Kicking off the festival are The Shins, a critically-acclaimed American indie rock band formed in New Mexico by lead singer James Mercer. The band garnered mainstream success in the early 2000s when their song "New Slang" was featured in the film *Garden State*. Their subsequent album shot to #2 and earned a Grammy nomination. After a five-year hiatus, the band returned to music in 2012 and recently released their fifth album, *Heartworms*. Praised for bringing "the pop traditions of 1960s pop bands—groups like the Beatles, the Zombies, and the Beach Boys—to a new generation of

music fans" by Rolling Stone, The Shins are one of this year's biggest acts.

Next up is Brooklyn-based South African recording artist St. Lucia. Born in Johannesburg, Jean-Philip Grobler sang in the Drakensberg Boys' Choir, where he discovered his love for music. At 12 years old, he began experimenting with 80s-inspired music, influenced by Michael Jackson, Boyz II Men, Sting, and Phil Collins. After studying at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts in England, Grobler moved to Brooklyn and began his music career. To date, he has released two albums, as well as opening for Two Door Cinema Club and remixing for Passion Pit, Foster the People, and Charli XCX.

Popular local band JOHNNYSWIM will conclude Friday's festivities. The duo consists of husband and wife Abner Ramirez and Amanda Sudano, who met in Nashville in 2005 and released their debut EP in 2008. After marrying and relocating to Los Angeles in 2009, they released a second EP and embarked on their first tour across the country. JOHNNYSWIM signed with Big Picnic



**rites:** An explosion of confetti celebrating Rites of Spring, one of Nashville's premier music events hosting numerous notable artists and musicians.

Records in 2014 and released their first full-length studio album "Diamonds," which stayed at #1 on the singer-songwriter chart for several weeks. Of their latest music, Ramirez states that it explores themes of "love, legacy, the past and the future all put into this bittersweet mixture that makes you fully appreciate the present."

On Saturday, hip-hop duo Rae Sremmurd will perform. Brothers Swae Lee and Slim Jxmmi founded the

group in Mississippi and signed a contract with Mike Will Made-It's imprint EarDrummers in 2013. Their 2015 debut album, *SremmLife*, went platinum in the United States, with their official breakthrough arriving in 2016 in the form of smash hit "Black Beatles." Rae Sremmurd released their sophomore album this past August, along with creating their own label and are currently embarking on their *SremmLife 2* tour.

Up-and-coming rapper Ty Dolla \$ign, featured in hits such as "Sucker for Pain" from *Suicide Squad* and Fifth Harmony's "Work from Home," will perform next. He has written for both Rihanna's "FourFiveSeconds" and YG's "Toot It and Boot It." Ty's feature on the latter gained him widespread recognition back in 2010. Today he is working on creating his own music and has released a debut album along with songs such as "Paranoid" and "Or Nah."

Aminé, known best for his 2016 hit "Caroline," will conclude the festival. Born in Portland, Oregon, he initially pursued basketball but was cut from his high school's team. His rap career gained traction when he began to write diss tracks about rival schools Grant High School and Lincoln High School. So far he has released two mixtapes and an EP, as well as his new song "REDMERCEDES."

Rites of Spring has long been known for its showcasing a wide variety of genres and its availability to Nashville as a whole. Tickets are currently for sale and can be found on Vanderbilt's website. The festival runs from April 21–22 on Vanderbilt's campus and typically draws a large crowd. People from all over Nashville are encouraged to come and enjoy a weekend of good music and celebration.



WWW.DRGLUCK.COM



A. Joel Gluck DDS MS, Specialist in Orthodontics

Jonathan Gluck (MBA '04) - DDS MSD, Specialist in Orthodontics



Middle  
Tennessee's  
Only  
Invisalign  
Top 1%

2002 Richard Jones Road Ste. A-200

615-269-5903



# Sketch Comedian Tackles Horror Genre in Stunning Directorial Debut

By Harrison Kidd  
Staff Thespian

“Get out! Please! Get out while you still can!” screamed the trapped Keith to the camera. *Get Out* has received positive reviews from almost everyone who has seen the movie, from critics to moviegoers. This came as a surprise, as the movie made many bold decisions, especially in its attempt at creating a storyline that blends genres.

**EAST-WEST BOWL:** Jordan Peele, member of the comedy skit duo Key and Peele, surprised audiences around the world by tackling the horror genre.



That the masterpiece makes audiences cry with laughter and jump out of their seats in fear within a span of three minutes attracts a wider array of people than most single-genre movies do. The hilarious moments sprinkled throughout the movie are not much of a surprise, given the identity of the director, Jordan Peele, the co-star of the hit comedy duo Key and Peele. However, the horror aspects of the film, as well as the profound moments such as when the character Chris speaks on his various regrets in life (as not to spoil), seemingly come from nowhere. Peele revealed that he is much more than a comedic star on a hit show.

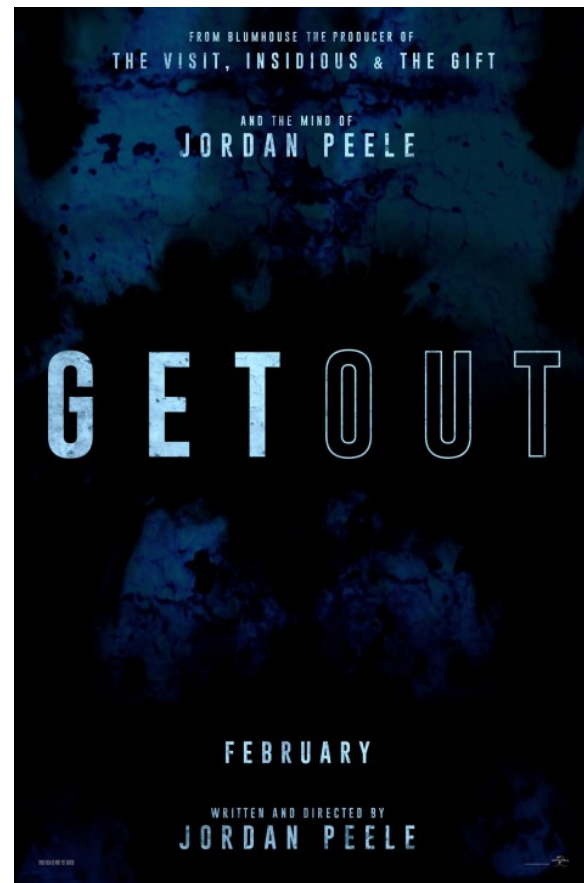
His inspiration for the flick came from his “realizing that every true horror, human horror, American horror has a horror movie that deals with it and allows us to face that fear, except [that] race in a modern sense, hadn’t been touched.” With this realization, Peele decided to be the first to fill this hole.

The first third of the movie follows Chris and his insecurities, worries, and habits. Peele describes this choice as a way to hook the watchers into Chris’s world and “getting everybody to be able to see the world through my protagonist’s eyes and his fears.” The decision of a slow set up allows audiences to easily able

to relate to Chris, making the intense moments of the movie even scarier. Later, on “The Verge,” Peele commented on the profound, thoughtful, and sometimes extremely awkward moments for Chris: “I’m a true believer in story. I think when you just tell people to think, people tend to get resistant and defensive.... But when you tell a story, and you draw them in through allowing them to see through the eyes of a different person, and when you can affect their feelings and emotions... then you have them on a starting point, already, to think about why they had those visceral reactions.”

At the conclusion of the interview, when asked if audiences can expect any similar films coming from him anytime soon, Peele remarked, “There’s several other ideas that have been germinating for the past eight years, and I’d like to do all of them. As far as I’m concerned, my next decade or so—along with helping other untapped artists, or untapped identities, find their own platforms as a producer—I want to write and direct these four other social thrillers.”

With this great news, audiences



**GETTING OUT OF THE MOLD:** Peele’s film has drawn critical acclaim for its telling of a multi-layered story and redefinition of race in American film.

worldwide rest easy knowing we can expect more horrifying and thought-provoking work from the great Jordan Peele.

## Such Stuff as Dreams Are Made On: Kidd Compares X-Men to Shakespeare

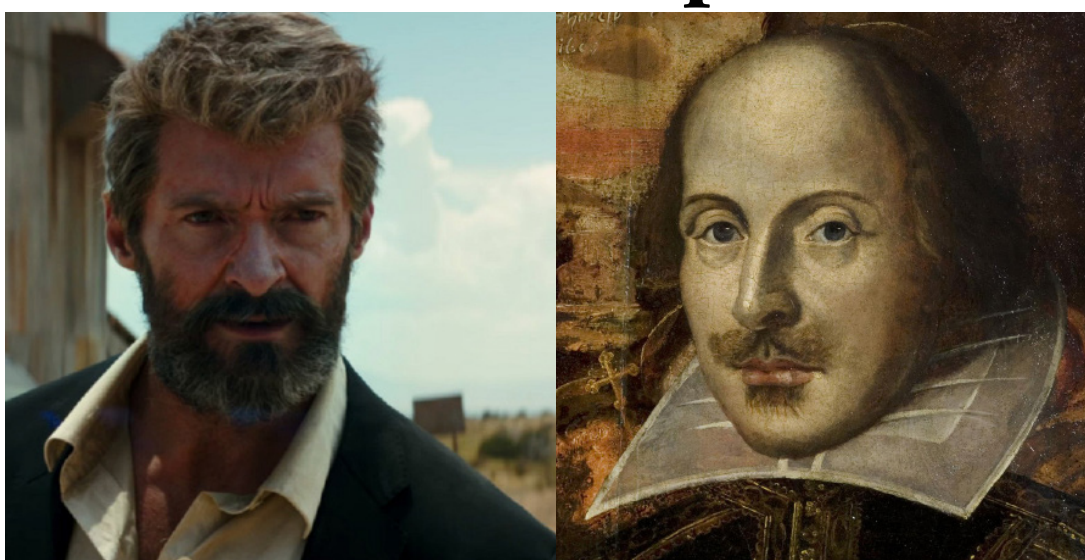
By Harrison Kidd  
Staff Thespian

An intense journey of love and sacrifice. A father risking it all for his daughter. A beast named Caliban. Is this the newest installment to the *Wolverine* franchise, *Logan*, or Shakespeare’s classic play, *The Tempest*? Throughout 20th Century Fox’s latest X-Men movie, audience members had the opportunity to see past the gore and death, instead to see a modernized version of their favorite (or maybe least favorite) Shakespeare work. Some similarities to the play are rather blatant and easy to see, while others are more easily overlooked.

Firstly, the home base of Wolverine and his two companions is an isolated storage facility in Mexico, safe from any outside intrusions, just like the isolated island of *The Tempest*. His two comrades in his bunker are Caliban and Professor X. As representations of characters from the island in *The Tempest*, Caliban is rather obvious, while Professor X and Wolverine (Logan) are mixtures offering slightly more skewed representations of Ariel and Prospero. In the beginning and middle of the movie, Wolverine represents Ariel by going out and doing chores for Professor

X, while all the time yearning for a way to get out of his secluded life and into a calmer one. Professor X, on the other hand, is more scholarly, just as Prospero is, and has magical telepathic abilities, similar to Prospero’s otherworldly powers. Additionally, he takes Laura under his wing and shares his infinite wisdom with her. However, around three quarters of the way through the movie, Professor X is tragically killed, and Wolverine has to become a father figure to Laura soon after finding out that Logan is Laura’s biological father because of the genetics the corrupt corporation used to create her. Additionally, both of the mutants further resemble Prospero in that they are both obviously aging and so are their powers.

Finally, both Wolverine and Professor X make massive sacrifices by leaving their respective “islands” for Laura, sacrificing their lives to secure Laura’s safety. Furthering Caliban’s similarities to the ones of the play, he ends up helping the baddies from the corporation



**ACTION BARD:** Shakespeare envies Hugh Jackman’s critical success and copious facial hair.

find Wolverine and the gang (although he is brutally forced), and rebels from helping Wolverine and Professor X at the beginning of the movie. In the end, though, Caliban proves a loyal and valiant friend, just as he does at the end of *The Tempest*. His similarities to the play increase as he sacrifices himself for the cause in an awe-inspiring final moment. Donald Pierce and his gang of corporate cronies represent the invading, shipwrecked crew from *The Tempest*,

disrupting Wolverine and the group’s peace. Donald represents Sebastian, a crony willing to do anything for the more knowledgeable Dr. Rice (Antonio). And Pierce somewhat disgustingly resembles Ferdinand in his insistence and passion towards attaining possession of Laura.

In the end, Laura makes it to safety with mutant friends and gets the ending reminiscent to *The Tempest*, which she deserves, making Logan and Professor X’s sacrifices worth it.



# Stormzy Delivers Debut from Across the Pond

By Jack Capizzi  
Entertainment Editor

Stormzy, one of the hottest new hip-hop artists of the last few years, released his debut album in February, giving a glimpse into the heart of the “grime” scene while simultaneously taking on more mainstream influences.

“Grime” is the name given to the genre of hip-hop that has been developing on the streets of London since the turn of the century. The subgenre combines faster, more electronic beats with quick, often more aggressive, lyrical patterns. Grime has only recently become popular in the states after it developed a strong Internet presence with artists like Stormzy’s and Skepta’s gaining millions of views on self-produced music videos and cell phone-recorded freestyles. Due to the genre’s relevantly recent entry to the worldwide music scene, grime holds a strong emotional output that is not felt by many of the overproduced, corporate controlled, albums of many of the established genres currently in the mainstream. *Gang Signs and Prayer*, the latest grime project to hit the markets fully exposed the worldwide public to the potency of the grime genres.

*Gang Signs and Prayer* begins with three of the albums’ best tracks, “First Things First,” “Cold,” and “Bad Boys.” Each adds to the overall theme of the

album that Stormzy is revealing his craft to the entire world. His self-proclaimed “rebel with a cause” attitude bleeds through the lyrics of the opening trio as he discusses the downside of his newfound fame, as well as the misrepresentation he has faced in his years as a musician and how he aims to fix these problems.

*GSAP* continues down a similar path for the majority of the album where the aggressive tone that is set at the onset shines through in some of the best tracks like “Mr. Skeng,” as well as “Return of the Rucksack.” The album takes quite a turn from the grime tracks on songs like “Blinded by Your Grace” and “21 Gun Salute,” where Stormzy slows the tempo of the album down drastically and sings about his faith as well as his problems with his family and friends. This section of the album draws comparisons to some of the past work of such American artists as Chance the Rapper in that he uses choruses and instrumental beats to reflect a sentimental and introspective tone.

While Grime is certainly an acquired taste for most American ears, Stormzy’s *Gang Signs and Prayer* is an accessible transitional piece for those interested in discovering a crossover between more traditional hip-hop and the grime genre. Stormzy produced a debut album that drew on his successes of the past



**GOING GRIME:** Stormzy is an artist some have seemed as an accessible entry point into the perhaps off-putting Grime genre.

while still entertaining new, unexplored concepts. While many of England’s new rap artists have not yet reached the level of many of the best American rappers,

Stormzy’s *Gang Signs and Prayer* is certainly a sign that they are not far off.

## More Life: More Mediocrity

By Jack Capizzi  
Entertainment Editor

*More Life*, the latest album, or “playlist,” from rapper/singer Drake symbolizes a possible beginning of the end for the Toronto phenom. A random collection of songs that span genres and influences, *More Life* sees Drake descend much farther down the path towards mediocrity that began around a year ago with the release of his previous album, *Views*.

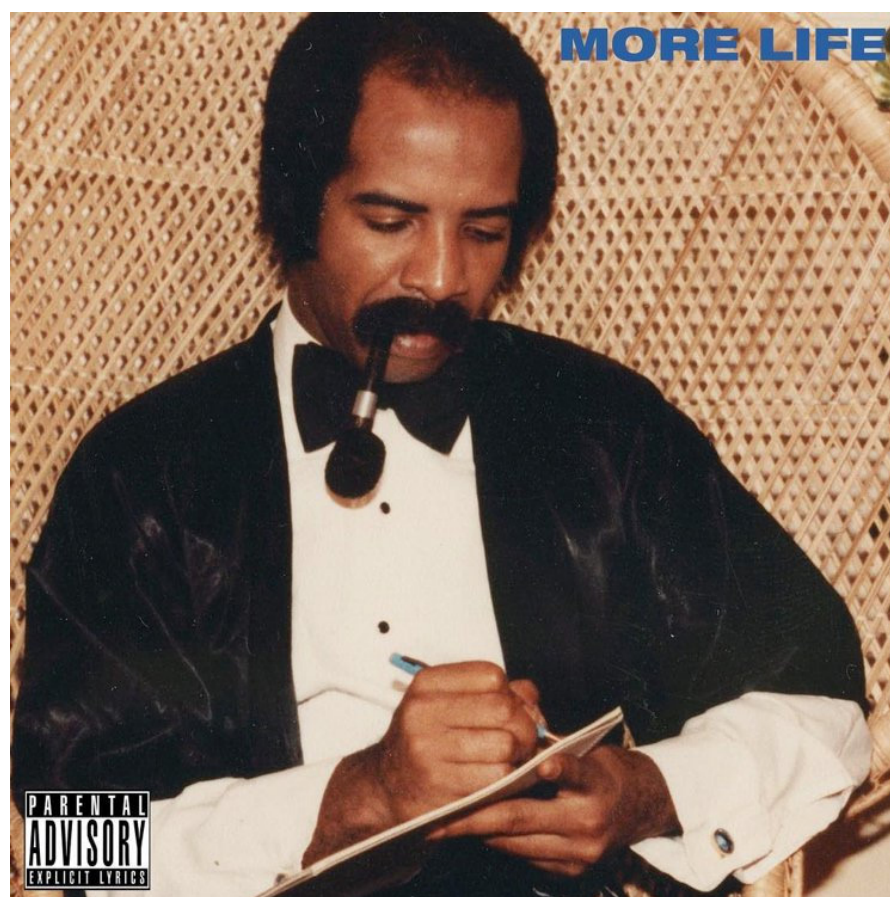
On both of Drake’s two latest projects, he abandons any attempt at continuity from his earlier albums by copying other artists and transforming his collection of songs into Jamaican and London Grime-influenced beats overlaid with his extraterrestrial, uncomfortable singing voice. *More Life* features tracks such as “No Long Talk,” in which Drake repeatedly raps about his many “tings,” along with other blatant slang phrases that neither fit into the flow of the song nor resemble anything in the way of impactful rhythm.

The album seems to begin strongly with fierce, loud, cut-throat beats on “Free Smoke,” a song that initially sparks nostalgia to Drake’s Meek Mill diss track “Back to Back” but loses any of its gravity when he starts discussing

his eating habits at Outback and Applebee’s, his seating on Southwest flights, and his drunk texting of J-Lo.

Drake’s pandering lyrics and use of accents turns to blatant copying on the song “KMT.” Here, Drake copies the flow and beat of rapper XXXTentacion’s “Look at me.” The problem becomes amplified in that the song “Look at me” is bad enough to begin with, and Drake does little to make it better.

While few and far between, *More Life* still manages to churn out a few highlights. Ironically, they come in the form of features and not from the artist whose name is attached to the album. British grime sensations Skepta and Giggs deliver some of the most pungent, memorable verses. Their influence on the album is most exemplified through “Skepta’s Interlude,” when the grime rapper gets an entire song to himself. Singer Sampha receives a similar opportunity on “4422,” where he emits the most emotional moment of the album, revealing a facet of his repertoire that was showcased on his debut album, *Process*, which was released in early February. Also, many of the features from established hip-hop artists such as Quavo, Travis Scott, and Kanye West impress in their respective features.



**DUE TO PARENTAL ADVISORY, THE BELL RINGER CANNOT CONDONE LISTENING TO THIS RECORD.**

*More Life* is another mediocre project from Drake that raises the question as to why the rapper still garners so much attention for his projects that have repeatedly failed to deliver any-

thing of substance and have blatantly copied or stolen from other, lesser-known artists.



# Robbed Again: Hockey Finishes Exemplary Season with Devastating Loss

By Robert Cowan  
Staff Ice Pup

23 seconds. That's how close the Big Red hockey team was to winning its first-ever Preds Cup. For many in Nashville, the Big Red team will only be known for what didn't happen, not what they accomplished. They may have lost three state championships in a

row, but they also finished the past two seasons with only two defeats, both in GNASH regular season and playoffs, with an overall record of 44-5-1. This stellar play earned the team back-to-back GNASH Cups for having the best record in regular season play. Not only that. There are three other records that the team broke this year. They were the first team to go completely

undefeated in the regular season without a tie (16-0). They broke the total goals scored record by scoring 131 goals (the previous record was Centennial High in 2012 with 124 goals). And in goals surrendered, MBA only gave up only 20 for the whole season, beating Ravenwood's 2014 record of 22 goals. Along with these GNASH records, five players from MBA were selected for the GNASH All-Star Game: Ellis Moore, Blake Robison, Jacob Kovick, Nick Ray, and Noah Wamble.

The Big Red completed the 2016-2017 season with an overall record of 24-1, with four wins against two out-of-state teams, Trinity and Owensboro from Kentucky, and two wins throughout the season against BA, Ensworth, Brentwood High, Ravenwood, and Centennial.

The seniors leaving next year will be remembered as one of the greatest hockey teams to come through MBA. Jake Evans, Jack Anderson, Ellis Moore, Jacob Kovick, Nick Ray, and Noah Wamble finished their high school hockey career with a record of 75-22-2, two GNASH Championships, and three consecutive appearances in the Preds Cup. Noah Wamble finishes as MBA's winningest goalie with 58 victories.

Jacob Kovick finishes with an MBA-best 84 goals and 62 assists, and Ellis Moore finishes second with the most assists (57). All of these seniors built the foundation for where both hockey programs sit today. Without them, who knows what these past three seasons would have been like? I would like to personally thank all the seniors for their leadership and for having the pleasure of playing alongside them.

While the end of this season was disappointing, a major core of the team will return next season. Rising seniors Daniel Cowan, Robert Cowan, Ben Evans, Michael Garcia, Josh Morin, Josh Morris, and Blake Robison will lead the Big Red to what could easily be another run for a state championship. Along with these seniors, there will be a number of juniors, sophomores, and a strong freshman class fighting for a limited number of open spots on the team.

The 2017-2018 season promises to be an exciting year for the Big Red Hockey team, continuing the march toward the championship the team so well deserves.

**DEUTSCH'S ANGELS:** The Big Red Hockey team huddles up before a tense moment on the ice.



## Big Red Runners Tear Up Track

By Hamilton Garber  
Staff Thrower

Coming off a second place state finish, the MBA Track Pups are gearing up to compete this season. As the Highland Games approach, head coach Robert Pruitt and his faithful squad have worked tirelessly in the offseason, each member practicing his individual event for the good of the team. With a talented group of athletes, this coming season looks promising as the team prepares for the long road to state.

Coach Russ and his long distance runners have clocked in miles, but still have many to go before they sleep. Senior Will Peters has done strong work in the 1600 and 3200 meter runs and looks to repeat his success. Following him is fellow senior Alden Ferguson and Sophomore Graham Ragsdale who have each seen success in Cross Country and look to bring some of that excellence to the lanes.

Coach Pippin, along with her counterparts in Coach Redmond and Coach Sanders, is preparing her sprinters and hurdlers for another year of winning. Key contributors this year will be Seniors Andrew Hudson and Mack Smithing in the 400 and 800 meter dash, along with Juniors Charlie Ma and Michael McGuire and Sophomore Sam Dugan in the

100 and 200 meter dash. Wildcard member is Senior Montgomery Owen, making a debut this year with high hopes and dreams.

Field Events are looking especially bright with the addition of a new throwing coach, Coach Susan Thornton. Although the program has lagged in years past, Coach Thornton appears to be whipping the throwers into competitive shape. Senior Warner Lamar, Juniors Dayton Upchurch, Houston Hartle, and Ben Frigon all plan to chuck some shots, while Frigon will continue in his path of disc throwing excellence. Of course, head Coach Pruitt stands ready to help with any throwing drills necessary to add on that extra couple feet to the end of any throw.

The legendary Coach Tyler and Resident Matthew McConaughy doppelganger, Coach Matt Pogue, lead a gifted group of jumpers. Resident pole rider Senior Warner Lamar seeks to achieve his lifelong vault dream of 15 feet this year to cement his place as a legendary pole vaulter on the hill. Junior McClain Portis will continue a streak of



**CABER TOSS:** Members of the Big Red Track team hold up victory t-shirts at the Highland Games, the yearly inaugural meet for the MBA track pups.

jumping dominance in the high and long jumps. Senior Andrew Hudson will also make an appearance, participating as a jumper as well.

A unique facet of the MBA team is its prevalent underclassman leadership. Being rather scant on Senior leadership, Juniors and Sophomores have much expected of them in the upcoming trials.

Noticeable absences from this year's squad include senior Tom Peters. The team will have to adjust. Anyhow, the coaching staff has much planning before the eventual allocation of bodies for the meet season.

Key meets to watch are the Doug Hall Relays on April 22, TSSAA Regionals on May 19, and finally the State Meet



# One Goal: MBA Lacrosse off to Promising Start

By Palmer Thombs  
Assistant Sports Editor

Lacrosse season is underway on The Hill, and the Big Red are sitting at 5-5. Coming off of a state championship appearance last season, MBA returns loads of talent from that squad, and holds high expectations for the season to come. But even with the returning talent, there is still work to be done for Montgomery Bell to take the next step: winning the state championship.

A lot was done during the offseason to take this next step. The program changed its strength program and has worked more towards developing stronger, tougher, and more fit players. This hard work has not only shown itself in the weight room, but also early in the tough schedule that MBA has taken on this year.

The season began with a road trip down to Huntsville, Alabama where the Big Red took on the Rebels of Vestavia Hills (AL). In the neutral site battle at The University of Alabama in Huntsville, MBA defeated Vestavia Hills 8-7 following an overtime goal from junior midfielder Gordon Pollock. The next weekend brought about another trip out of town for MBA as this time they travelled to Louisville for a pair of games against Trinity (KY) and St. Xavier (KY). Friday night the Big Red took down the Shamrocks 12-9 before dropping to the Tigers on Saturday 8-10. Junior midfielder Zach Smith led the team

**A LEAN AND HUNGRY LOOK:** Jack Hayles '17 poised and ready to play a strong game.

with eight goals on the weekend.

MBA then returned home to open play at Frank Andrews Field against the Pope Greyhounds (GA). The talented Greyhounds took down the Big Red 5-8 on a cold Friday night while MBA was down two captains, senior midfielder Jacob Kovick due to hockey and senior defenseman Jack Hayles due to a nagging injury. But MBA bounced back the following week as they began regional play against Father Ryan. After trailing by five two separate times, the Big Red were able to come out on top, defeating the Irish 14-13, a victory led by Gordon Pollock's six goals and Fenner Pollock's game-winning goal with 0:30 left on the clock. This region-opening win gave MBA some momentum going into Spring Break, where they would take on three more tough out-of-state teams.

The 1-2 record over Spring Break does not reflect how well the Big Red actually played, losing 8-9 in overtime to Charlotte Latin (NC), winning 12-9 at Lake Norman (NC), and losing 13-14 to Wando (SC). These results came without two key players, both Hayles and junior midfielder Cal Bryan.

Reflecting on both Spring Break and the start of the season as a whole, junior attackman Fenner Pollock said, "Three out of our four losses have been decided by one goal. The difference in those games is that we could not piece together four complete quarters of lacrosse. But the Spring Break trip enabled our team to



**EYE OF THE TIGER:** Jacob Kovick '17 tearing it up on MBA's Andrews Field as his teammates support him from the side.

find an identity."

The following week's schedule gave MBA two home games against in state opponents. First up for the Big Red was Centennial whom they defeated 17-2. The blowout victory gave the Big Red an opportunity to get some younger, less experienced players more playing time. But the biggest game of the week, and arguably of the season, came on the following Friday in a state championship rematch between the Big Red and the MUS Owls. Both teams came into the game in the top one hundred nationally and were fired up to play the rivalry game. With the energy surrounding the anticipated rematch, the Owls and Big Red put on a show. It was a back and forth battle between the two rivals, but the Owls ultimately pulled away and secured a 13-10 victory. If those two teams meet up again in the playoffs, fans can count on another good

one.

As the season progresses and team continues to find its identity while regaining players such as Hayles, expect more success from the Big Red. With a combination of experience from the likes of senior captains Gabe Mendoza and Connor Mulloy alongside talented but less experienced players like defenders such as Jackson Hannah, Jack Larish, and first year starting goalie Joe Waller, MBA is primed for a successful second half.

"When our whole team shows up to play, we are an excellent team," Hayles said about the team, "but unfortunately, we have only showed up to play for 3 or 4 games."

Look for this excellent team to progress as these younger players mold with the successful careers of the talented older group of players leading to a strong finish from the Big Red.

With the lacrosse program, everybody knows the goal and knows it is something that can be done. Fenner Pollock said, "There is one goal and that is to win a state championship. To do that, we just need to take it one game at a time and trust in each other to do our jobs."

Hayles added, "The state championship is a very attainable goal if our team truly wants it to be."





# Bracket Madness Sweeps the Nation

By Jack Smartt  
Staff Baller

It may be that the NCAA tournament has become one of the most anticipated sporting events of the year due to the widespread adoption of the bracket competition. March Madness brackets have made the tournament exciting, bringing attention to the unpredictable nature of the tournament.

The single-elimination format allows many lower seeded teams to beat higher seeded teams. For example, 12 seeds beat 5 seeds 33% of the time and 11 seeds beat 6 seeds 35% of the time. Upsets are what make the tournament special, and predicting them gives fans great satisfaction in stacking their bracket victories.

Filling out brackets first became popular in 1977, when a Staten Island bar was thought to have created the first March Madness bracket pool. That year, 88 people filled out a bracket, and each put in \$10. Now, about 45 percent of Americans fill out a March Madness bracket. It has become a national pastime.

After correctly predicting an upset or a close game, people feel accomplished because almost every single game can go either way. Although there is no documentation or evidence that anybody has ever correctly predicted an entire bracket, one of the closest came from a 17 year old boy named Alex Hermann. He correctly predicted every game in the Sweet 16 before his luck ran out. It became rumored that his bracket might not have been valid because the website he completed the bracket on was called Bracket Manager. Bracket Manager is not one of the trusted websites like the ESPN or CBS Sports. On Bracket Manager,

the head of the pool can change picks of games that have already ended. In this case, Hermann's older brother may have changed the picks of the games already played. The closest someone ever got to a perfect bracket

on a valid website was Brad Binder, who got the first 36 picks correct. Brad's run at a perfect bracket ended when Syracuse lost to Dayton on a missed three pointer in the Round of 32. The reason that it is so difficult to get a perfect bracket is mathematical: there are 9.2 quintillion scenarios in the tournament. Eventually someone will complete a perfect bracket, but when that will occur remains to be seen.

Competition within bracket pools is another reason that March Madness brackets are so popular. Whether it is family pools, friend pools, or work pools, there is always a competition to win for bragging rights. Bracket pools for money are especially popular because typically bracket pools are winner-take-all format, which creates lots of competition. The competitive spirit of the tournament gains intensity



**BRACKETOLOGY:** Bracket competitions have become popular in advisories on the Hill.

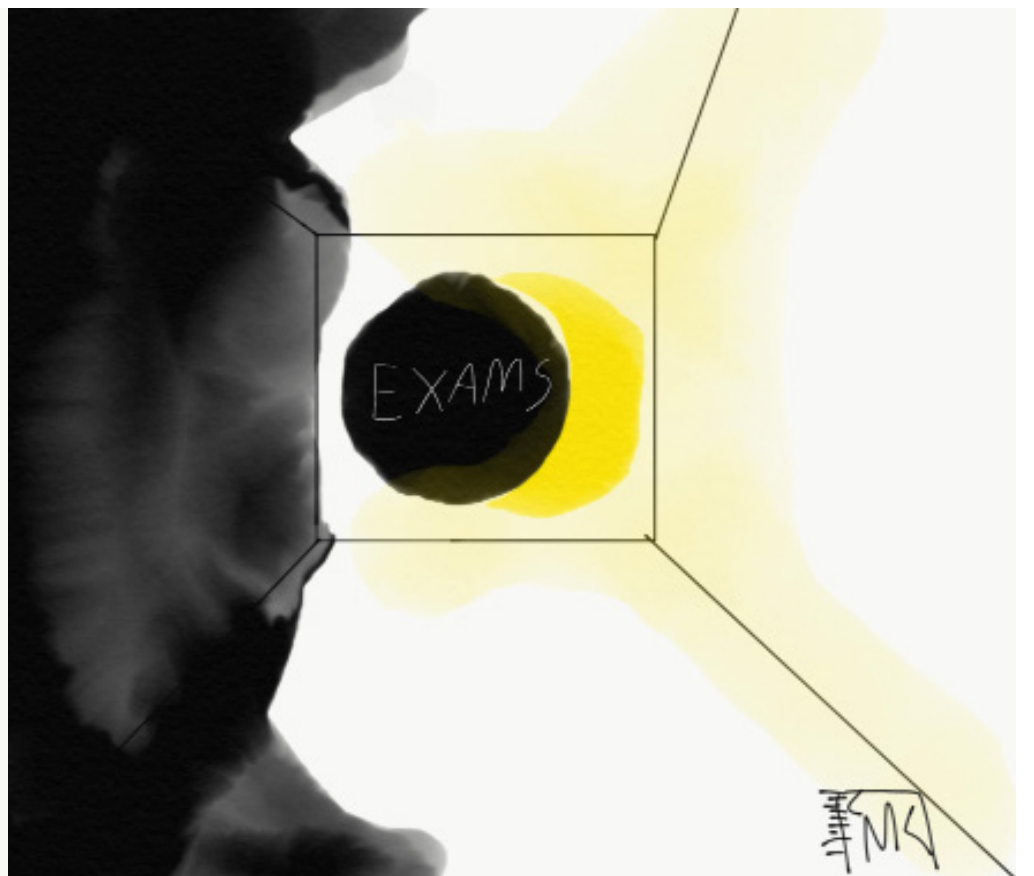
from the buzzer-beaters and close endings that occur in March Madness games. Most of the games in the first two rounds this year ended up being one or two possession games, because the teams are about even in almost every game during the first weekend of the tournament. Also, people tend to cheer for a certain teams or players that they have going far in their bracket. For example, many people cheered for exciting players like Buddy Hield and Jimmer Fredette in recent tournaments because they were explosive players who led small school teams not known for having exceptional basketball programs.

This year's tournament was different because they were not as many close games in the first two rounds. The close games didn't start until the Sweet 16 and the Elite 8. In fact, the first true buzzer-beater of the tournament

to win the game happened in the Sweet 16 when Florida point guard Chris Chiozza hit a 3-point buzzer-beater to lead the Florida Gators over the Wisconsin Badgers. In the first round of the tournament, only four of the games were one-possession showdowns, which made for a relatively boring first round. The Sweet 16 then produced four one-possession games out of its eight, bringing excitement back into the tournament.

Here at MBA, advisory bracket challenges are common and many of the advisories compete in them. Their competitive spirit makes for a great advisory time. And MBA tradition has begun.

## Countdown to May...





# Freshmen Start Reading Real Latin

By Aden Barton, Matt Kaplan, and Zach Brown  
Staff Pueris

The sun sets on the toughest part of the year. All everyone had their eyes on was making it to Spring Break. Unfortunately, not all of us in the class of 2020 were able to make it. Yes, mark down another fallen soldier, **Mr. Andrew Ferris**, may he rest in peace. We'll miss you, Fandy. We hope that you will have success in your future endeavors, and wish you the best of luck. Speaking of luck, we send our thoughts to **Harrison Hitt**, who has had little luck recently, with a bad concussion and a car wreck in practically the same week.

Class officer elections are upon us once again, as many scramble to get petitions signed with signatures and declare a run for office. This year it appears as though far more people are running for student council than just about all the other offices combined. If you really want to run the carnival, then go ahead. We're sure many people will want a change of staff on our student council after seeing the Field Day assignments. Star ultimate frisbee players are getting

placed in B Team ultimate, while people seemingly not taking Chinese are being put in Chinese, such as **Connor Kolstad**. Regardless, such high demand for the student council slots leaves other class officers wide open, leaving possibly unopposed positions. It's sure to be interesting to see if our officers will get reelected, whether **Brennan Minkoff's** secret messages will keep him in office, and whether **Grayson Hill's** harambe analogies will allow him to be Mr. President for another year. Obviously our elected officials have set a model of respect and dignity that the whole grade hopes to emulate.

As the summer approaches, it is also important to make sure that we are wholly productive during the months we are away from MBA. **Matthew Kaplan** is hoping his camp experience is just as fulfilling as it was last year. **John Thornton** is wondering if his experience at his camp, Interlochen, will be as adventurous as last year. Really, the whole summer should just be used as an opportunity to get ahead for next year. Just ask all freshman debaters who will be spending their months off at debate camp.

Remember that not all success occurs in the academic field. Many students were spotted at the Trump rally standing for what they believe in. Unfortunately the line was just too long for student political advocates like **Nick Bailey** to get in. **Pete Rowlett** also made an appearance at the rally, although he did not seem to want to "Make America Great Again." It is really inspiring to see these tender young men getting involved in politics in such a meaningful way.

Despite consistent promises of major changes, Mr. Carlini's class never really changes. His class remains enjoyable yet relatively demanding for the students. Although he had made some progress in his class, his bringing of his dog into class set the progress back and reverted class back to its previous state. Another major change comes



**CALIDAE:** Our freshmen heroes approach the sweet release of summer and impending love connections fueled by their advanced knowledge of classical texts.

with **Sully**. After having many of his tallies erased in Mr. Bernatavitz's class, he has thrown in the towel. Instead of stealing everyone else's tallies and then losing them shortly afterward, he simply accepts his lack of tallies.

# Sophomores Hear Lone Voice in the Wildnerness

By Sam Dugan  
Staff Sophomore

There has been plenty going on with the class of 2019 over these last few weeks. **Joe "Meathead" Stevens** still leads the grade in L's per week (LPW) with **William "Justice for Wheeler" Wheeler** trailing closely behind. The standings are as follows: 1. **Stevens** (97.6) 2. **Wheeler** (93.5) 3. **Davis** (74.2) 4. **Bernatavitz** (64.6) 5. **Turner** (60.1). You can expect to find these men at McDougal's on the weekends. Though these statistics are somewhat discouraging for our class, **Jackson "I Have Seven Offers" Lampley** has made up for the losses. Jackson's phenomenal skills in attracting freshman females were noted on the Dominican Republic Spring Break trip. (By the way, he has seven offers.)

This month a new liquid has taken over the class of 2019 and caused a school-wide phenomenon. We cannot state its name due to the paper's NSFW policy. Two weeks ago, it was just a regular assembly on The Hill when an unknown culprit decided to release the fumes of this revolting liquid and terrorize the entire student body. Even the administrative staff was affected by this sickening toxin. Since then, the substance has spread through the school rapidly, making

unfortunate appearances in classes all around. **Aditya Priyadarshi** had some strong words about the movement, "I think it is extremely annoying and disrespectful that people find it funny. It is not a funny joke. Whoever is responsible needs to stop immediately," he said. We can only hope and pray that the offender—or offenders—will be caught soon, and their weapons seized.

Since Spring Break, one man has stood above all. He has gone by a myriad of names. Most notably, he has been referred to as "SIN-GAAAAAAAAA." **Jackson Singer**, or "The Slingman," is known for his spectacular throwing arm and good looks. **Cole Turner** has even referred to his arm as a "Cannon." Over the last week, Singer has burst onto the scene stealing the hearts of countless individuals, men and women alike. He has also gone by the names "Turbo," "Tom," "TB," and "Slinger." On the DR Spring Break trip, a feud arose between long-time rivals Slingman and William "Annaw Purroan" Wheeler. Due to Wheeler's jealousy for Singer's expertise with the ladies and his breathtaking athleticism, Wheeler irrationally decided to verbally assault the Slingman. Thereafter, the Slinger slung a pizza crust at Wheeler at 110 mph. Let's just say that was the

last we heard of Wheeler. With the launch of the Slingman's basketball and baseball careers, we can only expect to see more of this man over the next two years.

In other random news, there has been a sudden spike in trenchcoat sales in Nashville. This trend was started by fellow sophomore **Luke "McCallay Smythe" Bernatavitz**. Also, **Garrett "Lev Kurdwall" Murphy's** shirt hasn't been off as much as most would have wanted, but there is hope that the coming of Spring will change that. Our sources have told us that he plans to arrive at *The 408* shirtless. As expected, **Braden "Who, What, When, Where, Why" Myers** has continued to be the driving force of the grade. Thank you for everything, Braden. We love you.

The most prominent theme of the year has continued to be *The 408*, or the "SpaceBeach." Many students have referred to the event as "The Event of the Year." We hope **DJ**



**LOVE CONNECTION:** A sophomore humbled by the superior height of his female friend.

**Drawgz** lives up to the hype, given the "\$71,000" that is being spent.

Be on the lookout for more class news as we finish this school year.



# Seniors Edge out Junior Slackers for Full Page

By Brett Starr  
Staff President

As the school year comes to a close and graduation nears, the senior class is just trying to get by. But we can see the finish line, so let's all make it there together.

Now that everyone has heard back from colleges, it's time to make decisions. Some of us have known our destinations for a few months, and some are still deciding. Although he won't have the pleasure of shoving his USC acceptance up **Jack Hayles'** nose, **Aubrey Greene** is very excited to be joining the Barbour Clan at his dream school.

After two rounds of *Assassin*, we can all agree the game is pretty fun if everyone tries. Mr. Hayles suffered a serious injury from the game and missed a few lacrosse matches, but he claims it was definitely worth it. **Mac Lassing** only won the first game because his assassin was absent most of the days. Mac clearly has no skill and deserves no glory. **J-man Maradik** returned to WMD form with a victory over **Tom Peters** in round two. Jackson became the victor

with an ESPN Top 10 play-worthy kill while taking a statistics test. Big thanks to **Will Peters** and **Ben Rosenthal** for coordinating and running those games.

Spring Break really lived up to the hype, and apparently everyone made it back from Moon Palace alive. Wild nights at Club Noir will be remembered forever. The video *F* and **Bo Osgood** is possibly the most disgusting thing ever recorded. Also, **Matthew Dobson**, don't play with fire extinguishers. **Will Hoffman** and **Thomas Neff** asked you just to leave it on the wall, but you refused to listen.

To the surprise of many, Field Day was also pretty fun, and Cardinal pulled off the upset. Cardinal attributed the victory to **Brad Hornsby's** pure dominance in basketball and **Connor Mulloy's** expertise in Chemistry and *Hamlet*.

We went out with a bang for our last MBA dance. Highlights: **Jack Pickel** had a huge night. **George Harwell's** date tripped during the presentation. **Cal Rieke** appeared with his date and then got thrown in the pool. Unfortunately, **Dape** didn't come out at the afterparty. After getting severely beaten up by

**Logan Cashwell** and Mac Lassing, Brey Greene was diagnosed with a concussion by **Brett Starr** the fearless leader/coordinator/advisor/mathematician/pediatrician/lawyer. His head allegedly hurt so badly he couldn't even listen to EDM the next morning. **Andrew Kaplan** found his "superhero." Aww. No reports have been made about **Ben Gauldin's** night, but it's safe to assume he was an uncontrollable beast.

The MBA baseball team, led by senior **Drew Martin**, have started their season well. After an exciting 17-inning game, MBA edged out win against a good Baylor team. Then they played two more full games the same day. Everyone missed their Prom pictures, but it made for a good story.

Overall, the Senior Class is off to a great start in the Spring. We've got a few more months together, so let's enjoy them!



**BIG MAN:** Logan Cashwell at the beach, looking absolutely jacked.

## Prom 2017



*Will Hoffman taking a semi-formal approach to breakfast*



*Alden Ferguson: Female Magnet*



*John Fioravanti admires his old flame*



# Rich White Sands

*Are you a resident of Belle Meade looking for a destination where you can still see all your neighbors and fellow country club members?*

*Are you craving \$8 milkshakes and \$4 candy bars only a rental bike ride away?*

*Do you want to put some miles onto your new 2017 Ford Escape?*

*Do you want a vacation spot where your response will inspire wonder and silent awe in the eyes and faces of any plebeian who ignorantly asks, "So where did you go for break?"*

*Would you like to use your brand new YETI gear to refrigerate your copious amounts of orange juice?*



*World-class housing and overpriced everything combine to give you and your family an experience you can subtly brag about after church for months to come.*



*"Simply Breathtaking"  
- Gulf Chic Weekly*